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FLA'SHER, *n. f.* [from *flash*.] A man of more appearance of wit than reality. *Dict.*
FLA'SHLY, *adv.* [from *flashy*.] With empty show; without real power of wit or solidity of thought.
FLA'SHY, *adj.* [from *flashy*.]
 1. Empty; not solid; showy without substance.
Flashy wits cannot fathom the whole extent of a large discourse.
When they list, their lean and flashy songs
Grate on their scannell pipes of wretched straw. *Milton.*
This mean conceit, this darling mystery,
Which thou think'st nothing, friend! thou shalt not buy;
Nor will I change for all the flashy wit. *Dryden's Pers. Sat.*
 2. [From *flaccidus*, *Skinner*.] Inlaid; without force or spirit.
Distilled books are, like common distilled waters, flashy things. *Bacon, Essay 51.*
The tastes that most offend in fruits, herbs and roots, are bitter, harsh, sour, watery or flashy. *Bacon's Nat. History.*
FLASK, *n. f.* [from *flasque*, French.]
 1. A bottle; a vessel.
Then for the Bourdeaux you may freely ask;
But the Champaigne is to each man his flask. *King.*
 2. A powder-horn.
Powder in a skilful soldier's flask
Is set on fire. *Shakespeare.*
FLA'SKET, *n. f.* [from *flask*.] A vessel in which viands are served.
 Another place'd
*The silver stands, with golden *flaskets* grac'd.* *Pope's Ode.*
FLAT, *adj.* [from *flat*, French.]
 1. Horizontally level without inclination.
Thou all-shaking thunder,
Strike flat the thick rotundity o' th' world. *Shak. K. Lear.*
The houses are flat roundly to walk upon, so that every bomb that fell on them would take effect. *Addison on Italy.*
 2. Smooth; without protuberances.
In the dawning of the next day we might plainly discern it was a land flat to our sight, and full of bosage. *Bacon.*
 3. Without elevation.
Cease to admire, and beauty's plumes
Fall flat, and shrink into a trivial toy,
At every sudden flitting quite abast. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
 4. Level with the ground.
In them is plainest taught, and easiest learnt,
What makes a nation happy, and keeps it so,
What ruins kingdoms, and lays cities flat. *Milt. Par. Reg.*
That Christ-church stands above ground, and that the church of Westminster lies not flat upon it, is your lordship's commendation. *South.*
 5. Lying horizontally prostrate; lying along.
The wood-born people fall before her flat,
And worship her as goddesses of the wood. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*
That lamentable wound,
Which laid that wretched prince flat on the ground. *Daniel.*
 6. [In painting.] Without relief; without prominence of the figures.
Tasteless; insipid; dead.
He, like a puling cuckold, would drink up
The lees and dregs of a flat tamed piece. *Sh. Tril. and Cref.*
Taste so divine! that what of sweet before
Hath touch'd my sense, flat seems to this and harsh. *Milton.*
The miry fields,
Rejoicing in rich mold, most ample fruit
Of beauteous form produce; pleasing to sight,
But to the tongue inelegant and flat. *Phillips.*
 8. Dull; unanimated; frigid.
Short speeches fly abroad like darts, and are thought to be shot out of secret intentions; but as for large discourses, they are flat things, and not so much noted. *Bacon, Essay 16.*
Some short excursions of a broken vow
He made indeed, but flat insipid stuff. *Dryd. Don Sebastian.*
 9. Depressed; spiritless; dejected.
My hopes all flat, nature within me seems
In all her functions weary of herself. *Milton's Agonistes.*
 10. Unpleasing; tasteless.
How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable
Seem to me all the uses of this world! *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*
To one firmly persuaded of the reality of heavenly happiness, and earnestly desirous of obtaining it, all earthly satisfactions must needs look little, and grow flat and unfavourable. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
 11. Peremptory; absolute; downright.
His horse with flat tiring taught him, that discrete stays make speedy journeys. *Sidney.*
It is a flat wrong to punish the thought or purpose of any before it be enacted; for true justice punisheth nothing but the evil act or wicked word. *Spenser's State of Ireland.*
As it is in the nature of all men to love liberty, so they become flat libertines, and fall to all licentiousness. *Spenser.*
You start away,
And lend no ear unto my purposes;
Those prisoners you shall keep:
—I will, that's flat. *Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. i.*

FLA

Thus repuls'd, our final hope
 Is flat despair: we must exasperate
 Th' Almighty Victor to spend all his rage,
 And that must end us. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ii.*
 If thou sin in wine or wantonness,
 Boast not thereof, nor make thy shame thy glory;
 Frailty gets pardon by submissiveness;
 But he that boasts, shuts that out of his story:
 He makes flat war with God, and doth defy
 With his meer clod of earth the spacious sky. *Herbert.*
 You had broke and robb'd his house,
 And stole his talismanique louse;
 And all his new-found old inventions,
 With flat felonious intentions. *Hudibras, p. iii. cant. 1.*
 12. Not shrill; not acute; not sharp in sound.
If you stop the holes of a hawk's bell it will make no ring, but a flat noise or rattle. *Bacon's Natural History.*
The upper end of the windpipe is endued with several cartilages and muscles to contract or dilate it, as we would have our voice flat or sharp. *Ray on the Creation.*
FLAT, *n. f.*
 1. A level; an extended plane.
The strings of a lute, viol, or virginals, give a far greater found, by reason of the knot, board and concave underneath, than if there were nothing but only the flat of a board to let in the upper air into the lower. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
Because the air receiveth great tincture from the earth, expose flesh or fish, both upon a stake of wood some height above the earth, and upon the flat of the earth. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
It comes near an artificial miracle to make divers distinct eminences appear a flat by force of shadows, and yet the shadows themselves not to appear. *Watson's Architecture.*
He has cut the side of the rock into a flat for a garden; and by laying on it the waste earth, that he has found in several of the neighbouring parts, furnished out a kind of luxury for a hermit. *Addison on Italy.*
 2. Even ground; not mountainous.
Now pile your dust upon the quick and dead,
Till of this flat a mountain you have made,
T' o'er top old Pelion, or the skyish head
Of blue Olympus. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*
The way is ready and not long,
Beyond a row of myrtles, on a flat,
Fast by a mountain. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix.*
 3. A smooth low ground exposed to inundations.
The ocean, overpeering of his list,
Eats not the flats with more impetuous haste,
Than young Laertes, in a riotous head,
O'erbears your officers. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*
All the infections, that the sun sucks up
From bogs, fens, flats, on Prospero fall. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*
Half my pow'r's this night,
Passing these flats, are taken by the tide;
These Lincoln walves have devoured them. *Shak. K. John.*
 4. Shallow; strand; place in the sea where the water is not deep enough for ships.
I should not see the sandy hour-glass run,
But I should think of shallows and of flats. *Shakespeare.*
The difficulty is very great to bring them in or out through so many flats and sands, if wind and weather be not very favourable. *Raleigh's Essay.*
Having newly left these grammatical flats and shallows, where they stuck unreasonably, to learn a few words with lamentable confusions, we are now on the sudden turmoiled with their unballasted wits in fathomless and unquiet deeps of controversy. *Milton on Education.*
Full in the prince's passage hills of sand,
And dang'rous flats, in secret ambush lay,
Where the false tides skim o'er the cover'd land,
And feamen with dissembled depths betray. *Dryden.*
The sea could not be narrower than it is, without a great loss to the world; and must we now have an ocean of mere flats and shallows, to the utter ruin of navigation? *Bentley.*
 5. The broad side of a blade.
A darted mandate came
From that great will which moves this mighty frame,
Bid me to thee, my royal charge, repair,
To guard thee from the demons of the air;
My flaming sword above 'em to display,
All keen and ground upon the edge of day.
The flat to sweep the visions from thy mind,
The edge to cut 'em through that stay behind. *Dryden.*
 6. Depression of thought or language.
Milton's Paradise Lost is admirable; but am I therefore bound to maintain, that there are no flats amongst his elevations, when 'tis evident he creeps along sometimes for above an hundred lines together? *Dryden.*
 7. A surface without relief, or prominences.
Are there then fish ravishing charms in a dull unvaried flat, to make a sufficient compensation for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the last hills. *Bentley's Sermons.*
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FLA

To FLAT, *v. a.* [from the noun.]
 1. To level; to depress; to make broad and smooth.
The ancients say, if you take two twigs of several fruit-trees, and flat them on the sides, and bind them close, and set them in the ground, they will come up in one stock. *Bacon.*
With horrid shapes she does her sons expose,
Diffends their swelling lips, and flats their nose. *Creech.*
 2. To make vapid.
An orange, lemon and apple, wrapt in a linen cloth, being buried for a fortnight four foot deep within the earth, though in a moist place and rainy time, were become a little harder than they were; otherwise fresh in their colour, but their juice somewhat flatted. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 377.*
 To FLAT, *v. n.*
 1. To grow flat; opposed to swell.
I burnt it the second time, and observed the skin shrink, and the swelling to flat yet more than at first. *Temple.*
 2. To obstruct; retard; hinder; to render unanimated or evanid.
Nor are constant forms of prayer more likely to flat and hinder the spirit of prayer and devotion, than unpremeditated and confused variety to distract and lose it. *K. Charles.*
FLATLONG, *adv.* [from *flat* and *long*.] With the flat downwards; not edgewise.
What a blow was there given?
—An it had not fallen flatlong. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*
FLATLY, *adv.* [from *flat*.]
 1. Horizontally; without inclination.
 2. Without prominence or elevation.
 3. Without spirit; dully; frigidly.
 4. Peremptorily; downright.
He in these wars had flatly refused his aid. *Sidney, b. ii.*
Thereupon they flatly disavouch
To yield him more obedience, or support. *Daniel's Ct. War.*
Unjust, thou say'st,
Flatly unjust, to bind with laws the free. *Milt. Par. Lost.*
Not any interpreters allow it to be spoken of such as flatly deny the being of God; but of them that believing his existence, do yet exclude him from directing the affairs of the world. *Bentley's Sermons.*
FLATNESS, *n. f.* [from *flat*.]
 1. Evenness; level extension.
 2. Want of relief or prominence.
It appears so very plain and uniform, that one would think the corner looked on the flatness of a figure, as one of the greatest beauties in sculpture. *Addison on ancient Medals.*
 3. Deadness; insipidity; vapidness.
Deadness or flatness in cyder is often occasioned by the too free admission of air into the vessel. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
 4. Dejection of state.
The emperor of Russia was my father:
Oh, that he were alive, and here beholding
His daughter's trial! that he did but see
The flatness of my misery! *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*
 5. Dejection of mind; want of life; want of spirit.
 6. Dulness; insipidity; frigidly.
How fast does obscurity, flatness, and impertinency flow in upon our meditations? 'Tis a difficult task to talk to the purpose, and to put life and perspicuity into our discourses. *Collier.*
Some of Homer's translators have swelled into fustian, and others sunk into flatness. *Pope's Preface to Homer.*
 7. The contrary to shrillness or acuteness of sound.
Take two faucers, and strike the edge of the one against the bottom of the other within a pail of water, and you shall find the sound groweth more flat, even while part of the faucer is above the water; but that flatness of sound is joined with a harshness. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 157.*
 To FLATTEN, *v. a.* [from *flat*, French, from *flat*.]
 1. To make even or level, without prominence or elevation.
 2. To beat down to the ground.
If they should lie in it, and beat it down, or flatten it, it will rise again. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
 3. To make vapid.
 4. To deject; to depress; to dispirit.
 To FLATTEN, *v. n.*
 1. To grow even or level.
 2. To grow dull and insipid.
Here joys that endure for ever, fresh and in vigour, are opposed to satisfactions that are attended with satiety and surfeits, and flatten in the very tasting. *L'Estrange, Fable 161.*
FLATTER, *n. f.* [from *flat*.] The workman or instrument by which bodies are flattened.
 To FLATTER, *v. a.* [from *flat*, French.]
 1. To flatter with praises; to please with blandishments; to gratify with servile obsequiousness; to gain by false compliments.
When I tell him he hates flatterers,
He says he does; being then most flattered. *Shak. Jul. Cas.*
His nature is too noble for the world;
He would not flatter Neptune for his trident,
Or Jove for's power to thunder: his heart's his mouth;
What his breast forges, that his tongue must vent. *Shakespeare.*
He that flattereth his neighbour, spreadeth a net for his feet. *Prov. xxix. 5.*

FLA

He flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found hateful. *Pf. xxxvi. 2.*
 After this way of flatterer their willing benefactors out of part, they contrived another of forcing their unwilling neighbours out of all their possessions. *Decay of Piety.*
Averle alike to flatter or offend. *Pope.*
They flatter'd ev'ry day, and some days eat. *Pope.*
I scorn to flatter you or any man. *Dr. Newton's Ded. to Milt.*
 2. To praise falsely.
Flatter'd crimes of a licentious age, *Young.*
Provoke our censure.
 3. To please; to soothe. This sense is purely Gallick.
A consort of voices supporting themselves by their different parts make a harmony, pleasingly fills the ears and flatters them. *Dryden's Dufresnoy.*
 4. To raise false hopes.
He always vacant, always amiable,
Hopes thee, of flatter'ing gales *Milton.*
FLATTERER, *n. f.* [from *flatter*.] One who flatters; a fawner; a wheedler; one who endeavours to gain favour by pleasing falshies.
When I tell him he hates flatterers,
He says he does; being then most flattered. *Shak. Jul. Cas.*
Some praises proceed merely of flattery; and if he be an ordinary flatterer, he will have certain common attributes, which may serve every man: if he be a cunning flatterer, he will follow the arch flatterer, which is a man's self. But if he be an impudent flatterer, look wherein a man is conscious to himself that he is most defective, and is most out of countenance in himself, that will the flatterer entitle him to perform. *Bacon, Essay 54.*
If we from wealth to poverty descend,
Want gives to know the flatterer from the friend. *Dryden.*
After treating her like a goddess, the husband uses her like a woman: what is still worse, the most abject flatterers degenerate into the greatest tyrants. *Addison's Guardian, N^o. 113.*
The publick should know this of your ladyship; yet whoever goes about to inform them, shall be censured for a flatterer. *Swift.*
FLATTERY, *n. f.* [from *flatter*; *flaterie*, French.] False praise; artful obsequiousness; adulation.
Minds, by nature great, are conscious of their greatness,
And hold it mean to borrow aught from flattery. *Rowe.*
Simple pride for flattery makes demands. *Pope.*
See how they beg an alms of flattery!
They languish, O! support them with a lye. *Young.*
FLATTISH, *adj.* [from *flat*.] Somewhat flat; approaching to flatness.
These are from three inches over to six or seven, and of a flattish shape. *Woodward on Fossils.*
FLATULENCY, *n. f.* [from *flatulent*.]
 1. Windiness; fulness of wind; turgescence by wind confined.
Vegetable substances contain a great deal of air, which expands itself, producing all the disorders of flatulency. *Arbutnot.*
 2. Emptiness; vanity; levity; airiness.
Whether most of them are not the genuine derivations of the hypothesis they claim to, may be determined by any that considers the natural flatulency of that airy scheme of notions. *Glanville.*
FLATULENT, *adj.* [from *flatulentus*, Latin.]
 1. Turgid with air; windy.
Pease are mild and demulcent; but being full of aerial particles, are flatulent, when dissolved by digestion. *Arbutnot.*
Flatulent tumours are such as easily yield to the pressure of the finger; but readily return, by their elasticity, to a tumid state again: these are so light as scarce to be felt by the patient, and no otherwise inconvenient than by their unlightness or bulk. *Quincy.*
 2. Empty; vain; big without substance or reality; puffy.
To talk of knowledge, from those few indistinct representations which are made to our grosser faculties, is a flatulent vanity. *Glanville. Serp. c. 23.*
How many of these flatulent writers have sunk in their reputation, after seven or eight editions of their works. *Dryden.*
FLATUOSITY, *n. f.* [from *flatuosus*, Latin, from *flatu*, Latin.] Windiness; fulness of air.
The cause is flatuosity; for wind stirred, moveth to expel; and all purgers have in them a raw spirit or wind, which is the principal cause of tension in the stomach and belly. *Bacon.*
FLATUOUS, *adj.* [from *flatuosus*, Latin.] Windy; full of wind.
Rhubarb in the stomach, in a small quantity, doth digest and overcome, being not flatuous nor loathsome; and so lendeth it to the mesenteric veins, and, being opening, it helpeth down urine. *Bacon's Natural History, N^o. 44.*
FLATUS, *n. f.* [Latin.] Wind gathered in any cavities of the body, caused by indigestion and a gross internal peripartion; which is therefore discoloured by warm aromatics. *Quincy.*
FLATWISE, *adj.* [from *flat* and *wise*: so it should be written, not *flatways*.] With the flat downwards; not the edge.
Its posture in the earth was flatwise, and parallel to the site of the stratum in which it was reposit. *Woodward on Fossils.*
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